

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 AID-05

NIC-01 CU-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /056 W

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1905

INFO DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC CAMP H M SMITH HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL CHIENG MAI

SECDEF WASHDC

COMIPAC HONOLULU HI

MACTHAI J-2 BKK THAI

DEPCHIEF UDORN RTAFB THAI

13 AF ASIC CLARK AFB RP

USSAG/IN NKP RTAFB THAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 9244

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, LA

SUBJECT: SITUATION AT BAN HOU EI SAI

REF: VIENTIANE 9242

1. SITUATION AT BAN HOU EI SAI APPEARS STABLE, WITH
LITTLE CHANGE TO INFORMATION SUPPLIED REFTEL. USAID
AREA COORDINATOR HUXTABLE WAS PERMITTED TO CALL USAID
DIRECTOR RAMSEY EVENING DECEMBER 24. HUXTABLE REPORTED
"REBELS" DEFINITELY IN CONTROL BUT ALL AMERICANS AND
OTHER FOREIGNERS WERE SAFE AND BEING TREATED SATIS-
FACTORILY, ALTHOUGH RIVER WAS CLOSED TO THEM FOR EVACUA-
TION TO THAILAND AT THAT TIME. POOR CONNECTION PRECLUDED
PASSING OF ADDITIONAL INFO, ALTHOUGH IT WAS AGREED HUXTABLE
WOULD TRY TO ARRANGE ANOTHER CALL MORNING DECEMBER 25. (AS
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OF 1300 LOCAL HUXTABLE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO DO SO.)

2. FAR GENERAL STAFF MET LATE AFTERNOON DECEMBER 24 TO DISCUSS SITUATION. IT WAS DECIDED THAT G-3 GENERAL CHAU SINH WOULD VISIT XIENG LOM AND CHIANG KHONG, THAILAND (ACROSS RIVER FROM BHS AT PC 4543), MORNING DECEMBER 25 TO ASSESS SITUATION AND ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE FOR NEGOTIATIONS OR DETERMINE WHAT IF ANY RETALIATORY ACTION FAR WOULD INITIATE. ALTHOUGH DISSIDENT ELEMENTS OF FAR BN BI 102 WHICH ARE PART OF REBEL FORCE ARE BELIEVED SAME AS THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN MARCH ON BHS IN OCTOBER, CURRENT REBEL DEMANDS ARE POLITICAL IN NATURE AND THEREFORE ISSUE IS NOT SO CLEAR-CUT AS LAST TIME WHEN CAUSE D'ACTION WAS FAILURE BY FAR TO PROVIDE PAY AND RICE TO FORMER LIF FORCES WHO CONSTITUTE THIS BATTALION. THERE ARE ALSO INDICATIONS THAT, WITH STUDENTS APPARENTLY INVOLVED AS PART OF REBEL FORCE, FAR IS HESITANT TO LAUNCH ANY MILITARY COUNTER-ACTION FOR FEAR OF PROVIDING PATHET LAO SIDE WITH PROPAGANDA FUEL. PRINCIPAL PROBLEM MAY BE GAINING AGREEMENT WITH REBEL FORCE ON INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP WHO CAN ENTER AREA AND NEGOTIATE ISSUES.

3. FAR CAPTAIN CHANSOUK, FROM BI 102 AND THE APPARENT LEADER OF THE MILITARY ELEMENTS OF THE REBEL FORCES, SENT MESSAGE TO GENERAL TIAO VANNASAENG, DEPUTY COMMANDER MR I AT 1010 HOURS DECEMBER 25 WHICH STATES (AS MONITORED AND TRANSLATED BY USAID LOCAL EMPLOYEE) QUOTE I MYSELF AND HIGH AND LOW RANK SOLDIERS WITH SUPPORT OF FATHERS, MOTHERS, BROTHERS, SISTERS, PEOPLE OF (THIS PROVINCE) AND STUDENTS HAVE PROTESTED FOR JUSTICE IN HOUA KHONG PROVINCE, ON 24 DECEMBER AT 0230 HOURS WE HAVE CONTROLLED EVERY IMPORTANT POINT. THIS MANAGEMENT IS FOR KEEPING OF FREEDOM AND ORDERING OF FATHERS, MOTHERS, HOUA KHONG PEOPLE, HIGH AND LOW RANK SOLDIERS, HIGH AND LOW RANK POLICE AND CIVIL SERVANTS, WE ARE SINCERELY UNDER YOUR (MR-I) ORDER SO WE REQUEST YOU TO GIVE SOME ADVICE AND INSTRUCTIONS TO EVERY MR AND EVERY AIRCRAFT NOT TO HOVER OR MAKE ANY MILITARY MOVEMENTS TOWARD HK PROVINCE. THIS IS FOR SAFETY OF EVERYONE AND ESCAPE FROM BLOODY CONFLICT ESPECIALLY WILL NOT MAKE PEOPLE PANIC (PORTION GARBLED) AND WILL NOT DISMANTLY POPULATION'S PROPERTIES. WILL REPORT FURTHER DETAILS. RESPECTFULLY. UNQUOTE.

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4. FAR G-2 GENERAL THAO LY REPORTS THAT FAR'S CLANDESTINE RADIO IN BHS IS OUT OF ORDER AND THAT FAR IS SENDING A CAPTAIN TO TRY TO ENTER AREA WITH REPLACEMENT RADIO. HE ALSO REPORTS (SO FAR UNCONFIRMED BY ANY OTHER SOURCE) THAT REBELS HAVE BEEN REINFORCED BY 78 FORMER LIF SOLDIERS UNDER COMMAND OF A MAJOR LI YANG WHO HAVE BEEN LIVING ACROSS RIVER IN THAILAND. THAO LY ALSO STATED THAT THE THAVONG, IDENTIFIED REFTEL AS A "CAPTAIN," WHO MADE RADIO DEMANDS ON BEHALF

OF REBELS DECEMBER 24 IS ACTUALLY NOT A FAR OFFICER BUT RATHER AN INDIVIDUAL SENT FROM VIENTIANE BY PATHET LAO TO DIRECT BHS STUDENTS IN SUPPORT OF MILITARY REBELS.

5. AIDE TO FAR COMMANDING GENERAL BOUNPONE ADVISED AT 1200 HOURS DECEMBER 25 THAT DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT HAD URGED PRIME MINISTER TO NEGOTIATE WITH REBEL FORCE. PRIME MINISTER APPARENTLY IS ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO DOING SO AND INDICATED THAT FORCE WOULD BE USED, IF NECESSARY, TO BRING SITUATION UNDER CONTROL, I.E., IF EFFORTS BY CHAU SINH TO ARRIVE AT PEACEFUL SOLUTION FAIL. CHAU SINH HAS MADE HIS TRIP TO BHS AREA ARMED WITH OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS RELIEVING COLONEL KAMPHAI SAYASITH OF HIS POSITION AS BHS SUB-SECTOR COMMANDER, WHICH MAY PLACE CHAU SINH IN BETTER POSITION TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE REBEL FORCE.

6. PENDING ASSESSMENT BY GEN. CHAU SINH, FAR HAS PLACED ONE BATTALION WHICH IS IN TRAINING AT PKK (BC 711) ON ALERT. CONCEPT IS THAT IF MILITARY COUNTER-ACTION IS UNDERTAKEN THIS FORCE, PLUS UP TO TWO COMPANIES OF BI 104 CURRENTLY AT HONG SA, WOULD BE EMPLOYED. DIFFICULTIES FOR FAR INHERENT IN ARRANGING HELILIFT INTO BHS FOR ANY SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF TROOPS AND PLANNING NECESSARY FOR SUCH AN OPERATION WOULD REQUIRE TWO TO THREE DAYS. WHILE POSSIBLE FOR FAR/RLAF TO MOVE A LIMITED NUMBER OF TROOPS INTO BHS AREA IN SHORTER TIME-FRAME, IT IS IMPROBABLE THAT ANYTHING WILL BE ATTEMPTED WITHOUT DETAILED PLANNING FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT BY CHAU SINH AND THEN ONLY IF NEGOTIATIONS ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO ARRANGE OR ARE UNSUCCESSFUL IN RESOLVING ISSUES OR REACHING COMPROMISE.

WHITEHOUSE

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